Diversion of Forest Land for the purpose of issuing Title Deeds

968. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Central Government on the request of Kerala State for the diversion of reserved forest land for the purpose of issuing title deeds; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Clearance of Pooyankutty Hydro Electric Project

969. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pooyankutty hydro-electric project has been cleared from the environment angle;

(b) if so, when it was cleared; and

(c) if not, what are the objections raised by the environment authorities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This project was accorded environmental approval in June 1985 but has been rejected from forestry angle in November, 1988.

Hydro Electric Projects from Kerala pending Clearance

970. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of hydro electric projects from Kerala State pending clearance with the Central Government from environmental angle;

(b) what are the reasons for pending of these projects;

(c) since when these projects are pending; and

(d) what steps have been taken for clearing the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) Two projects, viz., Anakkayam Small Hydel Scheme and Adirapally Hydel Project, are awaiting environmental clearance. These projects have been referred to this Ministry in March, 1986 and January, 1989 respectively but these could not be considered due to non-availability of environmental details sought.

(d) To expedite decision on these projects, a Working Group was constituted by the Ministry which has already visited the project sites from 9th to 13th February, 1989 and held detailed discussions with the project authorities. The project authorities have been requested for clarifications regarding migratory route of wild elephants, impact on Adirapally water falls and forest land requirement.

Afforestation in Kerala

971. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is being considered for the afforestation of Kerala's deforested areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The target for afforestation programme is fixed on year to year basis in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) During 1988-89 the target is 1750 lakh seedlings and progress upto December, 1989 is 1353 lakh seedlings.

Spying by Military Attache of Pakistan

972. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's military attache in New Delhi,

Brig. Zahir Ul Islam Abbasi and his assistant, Mohd. Ashraf Khatib were caught redhanded at a hotel in New Delhi while handing over Rs. 50,000/- to a local lawyer, Mr. Subhash Chand Dutt in exchange for a three page report on longistics relating to the Indian Army;

(b) if so, what information they were passing; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They were passing on secret documents relating to Indian Army.

(c) The two Pakistani Embassy Officials were declared *persona-non-grata* and asked to leave the country within 24 hours. A case under Official Secrets Act. 1923 was registered against Shri Subhash Chand Dutt and Shri Abdul Wahid Dehlvi, two Indians involved in this case.

Investigation of this case has since been completed and a complaint is being filed in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi for prosecuting these above named persons under Sections 3, 4 & 9 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with Section 120 (b) I.P.C.

Merger of Small Scheduled Banks in Kerala

973. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Reserve Bank of India to merge the small scheduled banks of Kerala into one or to merge them with a major banks; and

(b) whether any study was made by the Reserve Bank into the working of these small scheduled banks and if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Providing of helicopters to excise staff in Kerala-Tamilandu border

974. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendations were submitted by Shri B. V. Kumar, Board Member of Control Excise (Narcotics) to provide helicopters for the use of excise staff for operations in Kerala-Tamilnadu border; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Cabinet Committee constituted to combat drug trafficking and preventing drug abuse has approved an Action Plan which contemplates aerial survey for locating illicit cultivation of ganja and poppy. During a recent large scale operation organised for the eradication of illicit cultivation of ganja in the Idukki District of Kerala and the contiguous hill ranges of Tamilnadu, a need was felt and recognised by Government to employ/hire helicopters not only for locating the illicit cultivation of ganja in high altitudes but also for facilitating quick movement of enforcement staff to such high altitude locations.